

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**

NEWS RELEASE

February 9, 2007

Commissioners Wefald, Clark and Cramer

For Immediate Release*

Phone 701-328-2400

PSC will meet in Jamestown on Monday to discuss power plant proposal

The North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) invites the public to attend a meeting where people will have a chance to gain information and share thoughts on local utilities' plans for building a new coal-fired power plant.

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU) and Otter Tail Corp. (OTC) have proposed to the PSC that they add needed electric resources by building a new 630-megawatt power plant near Big Stone City, South Dakota. The public meeting will be held on Monday, February 12, at 7 p.m. in the Stutsman County Law Enforcement Center, located at 205-6th Street SE in Jamestown, North Dakota.

MDU and OTC have filed an "Advance Determination of Prudence" application with the PSC. This case does not involve a rate increase, but it does involve a review of the options for generating electric power, and costs of various options. MDU and OTC each plan to purchase 116 megawatts of electric power from the proposed project, and other regional utilities would be purchasing the remaining capacity from the new facility.

"The proposed project would be a large investment for these two companies," commented Commissioner Susan Wefald, "and it would determine how a large percentage of their electricity is generated in the future."

The financial impact to customers will be one of the considerations in this case.

"The decisions that the Commission makes in this case will have an impact on customers' bills in the future," said Commissioner Kevin Cramer.

The public is encouraged to attend the meeting.

"This meeting provides the public with a chance to learn more about the proposed Big Stone Project, and a chance to offer comments to the Commission," stated Commissioner Tony Clark.

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